

August 1st 2012

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Reference: PRC Docket # MC2012-26

Dear Commissioners,

As the owner of The UPS Store #6182 in Orlando, Florida, I write to request that you deny the United State's Post Office's application offer enhanced Post Office Box services to their current customers and the general public.

My store currently employs 4 full time people who would otherwise be a part of Florida's jobless total – a total incidentally that is well above the national average. My business opened in July 2010 and the mailbox services developed by the franchisor play a pivotal role in generating sufficient revenue to make such employment possible.

In particular, I request that you address the inequitable nature of allowing proposals and having reached the inevitable conclusion, reject the application:

1. The acceptance of third-party parcels and other items from UPS, FedEx, DHL and other non-USPS carriers, a practice that has been prohibited for many years.
2. The new ability to use the street address of the Post Office where the Post Office Box is located, rather than the conventional "PO Box 123, Anytown, MA 01234."
3. The new ability of Post Office Box customers to use the "#123" designation instead of the conventional "PO Box 123" form of address.
4. E-mail / text message notification to PO Box customers of items received. ("Real Mail Notification")

Another blatant inequity not a part of these proposals (in Florida at least) is that unlike The UPS Store and other PMB providers, the United States Post Office does not – and apparently has no obligation to – charge **sales tax on Po Box sales**. This outrageous injustice further disadvantages the private sector.

These new business practices place the United States Postal Service in direct and unequal competition with thousands of small businesses across the country. For most store owners like me, our businesses are privately owned and represent the sole source of our income. In many cases, we have financed the purchase of the business with loans secured by our homes. This new form of competition from the USPS will result in significant loss of revenue and damage to my business. That will threaten not only my home, but also the jobs of the people I employ.

As a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA), our business is regulated and inspected by the USPS. There is no other enterprise in our society where one competitor can regulate another, even to the point of requiring them to turn over their customer list on a quarterly basis.

As a CMRA, we operate under other unfair rules, such as the ability of a postal customer to change his address from a PO Box to another address with a simple "Change of Address" form, while customers of a CMRA such as my store are prohibited from doing so. When a CMRA mailbox customer moves, we are required by the USPS to receive the customer's mail for six months following termination and cannot re-mail it without paying for new postage.

As noted in PRC Order No. 1366, "the Postal Service has not submitted an appropriate filing that describes the nature and implementing rules for these enhanced services." The USPS failed to follow the rules in rolling out these new services, and made a unilateral decision and executed it without the necessary filings. What the USPS is doing is fundamentally wrong. A financially viable Post Office is an important part of our business, but not at our expense. I cannot sit by and watch the USPS launch a series of products and services specifically designed to take our customers. A relationship with the USPS is a careful balance of competition and support, and in this instance they have tipped the scales.

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Leathley
The UPS Store #6182
2014 Edgewater Drive
Orlando, Florida 32804
407-601-6969
407.601-6970
Store6182@theupsstore.com